



A Call to Join ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups

Dear Professionals and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we are announcing the continuation of the **ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups**. In light of the upcoming 2017 ICEVI-European Conference in Bruges, Belgium, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join a Professional Interest Group of your choice and engage in the exchange of knowledge and sharing of best practices with fellow professionals and practitioners in your same field of interest.

Professional Interest Groups of ICEVI-Europe were established with the purpose of bringing together scientists, academics and professionals who work in the same specific field in order to exchange knowledge and experiences about the education and rehabilitation of people with visual impairments. ICEVI-Europe recognizes the necessity of professional interest groups and embraces the cooperation between professionals working in the field of visual impairment, promoting the necessary framework for full participation.

Kindly find below the various ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups and the contact information of their respective Leader(s), for your information:

- **ICT** – Marian Padure (marian.padure@ubbcluj.ro) & Lars Ballieu Christensen (lbc@sensus.dk)
- **Early Intervention** – Ana Isabel Ruiz López (AIRL@once.es) & Elena Gastón López (EGL@once.es)
- **Teaching and Teacher Training** (Advisory Teachers, Subject Teachers, Classroom Teachers, & Teacher Trainers) – Tarja Hännikäinen (Tarja.Hannikainen@valteri.fi)
- **Habilitation** (Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, & Speech Therapists) – Maria Tsekoura (mariatsekoura@hotmail.com)
- **Rehabilitation** (Orientation & Mobility Instructors, Daily Living Skills and Low-Vision) – Beata Pronay (pronaybea@gmail.com)
- **European network for psychologists and related professions working in the field of Visual Impairment, ENPVI** – Peter Verstraten (pverstraten@robertcoppes.nl)
- **Vocational Training and Employment Rehabilitation** – Stephanie Demartin (s.demartin@amisdesaveugles.org)
- **Parents Interest Group** – Önder İşlek (islekonder@hotmail.com)

The ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups will organize Meetings, which will be held on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, during the 9th ICEVI-European Conference in Bruges, Belgium. The meetings will be interactive and allow for interesting discussion. The Meetings will fit with the title and theme of the conference, “Empowered by Dialogue,” centered on the Quality of Life Framework by Dr. Robert Schalock. Each Meeting will be a 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration. A member of the board of ICEVI-Europe will also attend each Professional Interest Group Meeting and have a preliminary consultation with the Leader of the respective Professional Interest Group, for preparing this meeting.

Within the 9th ICEVI-European Conference, there will be an opportunity to discuss together a permanent structure of the ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Groups. In this instance, a small committee serving the purpose of a steering group will be formed. In the case that an Interest Group decides to realize a structural network, then the registration of the interested persons is necessary and it is also necessary to form a small committee that is willing to develop a program, a plan of action. As one of its instruments through which it facilitates the exchange of professional knowledge and expertise, ICEVI-Europe is a strong advocate of the establishment of strong and independent special Interest Groups that promote networking with regard to specific aspects of education and rehabilitation of the visually impaired.

The ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Group Meetings are scheduled to take place during parallel sessions within the conference program. Please note that there will be a place on the European Conference Registration Form, where you can click on and select the meeting of which ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Group you would like to attend.

We strongly encourage you to directly contact one of the Professional Interest Group Leaders in order to sign up as a member of the ICEVI-Europe Professional Interest Group of your choice.

On behalf of the ICEVI-Europe Board, we look forward to having you join one of our Professional Interest Groups and moreover, participate in one of our meetings held during the upcoming European Conference.

Sincerely Yours,
The Board of ICEVI-Europe